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BAR BULLETIN



PUBLISHED BY THE LOS ANGELES BAR ASSOCIATION

The Diminishing Minimum

Legal Ethics Opinions

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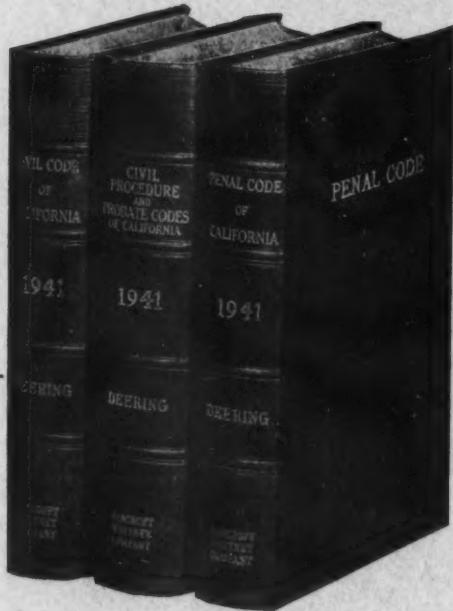
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BAR BULLETIN

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AUGUST, 1941

No. 12

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Editor of BAR BULLETIN:

Reading Mr. Taft's short note in the July issue of the BAR BULLETIN reminds me of a statement once made that the Pilgrim fathers had a very hard time since they suffered food, fuel, and clothes shortages, Indian depredations, and all the hardships of the pioneer, but the Pilgrim mothers had an even harder time since they had to suffer all these hardships and, in addition, had to live with the Pilgrim fathers.

Attorneys in general practice sometimes refer patent cases to patent lawyers for the reason that G.P.'s know very little about such practice and prefer to have their clients served by someone that does. The total volume of patent litigation has decreased much more than the volume of general litigation, and the patent lawyers feel this shrinkage acutely. They, however, suffer out of all proportion to the overall shrinkage, since many general lawyers cannot let any source of income get away from them and still eat regularly. It makes very little difference whether it is patent litigation or singing in the choir; the lawyer certainly needs the money and is willing to try and get it. As a result, G.P.'s try to sell their patent cases to the patent lawyers by asking a split in fees, without, I think, any substantial degree of success, or more often they just try these suits themselves. This is not an unmitigated evil, as a patent lawyer would rather defend a suit brought by a general lawyer than go hungry, and, after all, general lawyers bring suits that a patent lawyer would probably not have the nerve to bring and thus produce that proliferation of litigation which we need. Also it is not quite as hard to conduct a suit against an opponent who has little or no experience as it is to fight the lions of the patent bar.

With the supply of tin cups cut off by the needs for defense all the patent lawyer can do is to hold out his hat, if he has a hat.

Very truly yours,

FORD W. HARRIS.

THE DIMINISHING MINIMUM—A PARTIAL ANSWER

By Reuel L. Olson, of Los Angeles Bar

THE June number of the BAR BULLETIN, Los Angeles Bar Association, asked for the answer to the fact that "average earnings of California lawyers have greatly decreased in the past ten years." The July number contained a reply stating that "We can outdo the agencies and commissions if we will modernize our tools. These rivals of ours are up to date while we are still in the fog of the dark ages, plowing with a crooked stick." Reference in that reply was also made to the "obtuseness, conservatism and stupidity" of lawyers.

Making no comment upon the reply, it is merely my purpose to share with fellow members of the Bar a point of view which I believe pertinent, and which I hope may prove to be helpful to other lawyers.

Trust companies seeking to be named executors, life underwriters seeking to sell life insurance, estate planning corporations seeking to sell life insurance and soliciting legal business for their own employed personnel, non-lawyer tax consultants working with life underwriters and fixing their fees in direct relation to the amount of life insurance placed in an individual case, life underwriters calling each other into cases as tax experts although in fact interested only in the life insurance commission resulting from a sale, and accountants filing routine social-security tax returns and corporation and individual income tax returns, etc.,—all of these are at some time or other regarded by certain members of the lay public as competent to give advice on matters relating to an estate plan. Indeed, certain phases of estate planning are properly within the scope of activity of these individuals and companies.

But why is there not a greater demand for the advice of lawyers in these matters?

Within the last six months I have heard of at least one representative of a trust company who asked, "Why teach lawyers anything about estate planning?"

Within the same period of time I have observed at least one general agent of a life insurance company suggest to his agents that life underwriters in his organization who are not familiar with taxes should see that some life underwriter in the agency who is familiar with taxes be placed in the position to give the tax advice in the individual case, and I told him that in my opinion this constituted the unauthorized practice of law. For life underwriters to call each other into cases in which one of them poses as a tax expert uninterested in the sale of insurance, but in reality sharing in the commissions from the business written, is a situation which needs examination.

Within the same period of time I have had at least one individual from an estate planning corporation located outside of California come into my office and solicit business, using the name of an outstanding law firm in Los Angeles as a previous client.

And within that same period of time I have been told of two non-lawyer tax consultants who align themselves with life underwriters by basing their tax consulting fee in estate planning matters upon the amount of life insurance placed in an individual case.

And still we wonder why there is not a greater demand for the advice of lawyers in connection with the legal problems which inevitably are a part of an estate plan.

However proper it may be for non-lawyers to handle income taxes, social-security taxes, and certain other forms of taxes, it should be clear that the

subject of estate, inheritance and gift taxes as part of an estate plan involves so many questions of law that only a lawyer should be the tax adviser in such cases. One would not think of building a house without blueprints properly prepared; neither should a non-lawyer tax adviser prepare the blueprints for an estate plan, however skilled he may be in filing required tax returns.

It is time that lawyers fearlessly ask each of their clients this question, "Which of your advisers, Mr. Client, must decide *your* questions solely with *your* interests in mind?" Let lawyers put that question to clients and emphasize the idea that the fee paid for legal advice is a fee paid for advice given to serve the interests of the client alone, unclouded by the hope of an executor's fee, a commission from life insurance, a fee for tax consultation based upon the amount of life insurance placed in the case, or an estate planning fee paid to a corporation. Let lawyers stop drawing wills with the hope of collecting a reasonable remuneration if and when the client predeceases the lawyer; we pay our clients no compliment by putting them in the grave before we expect to be there ourselves. Nor is it a compliment to ourselves to entertain such an expectation. Is it surprising that clients stay away from lawyers until they cannot personally surmount their difficulties? Is it surprising that much of the field of "preventive" law, a field surely as important as preventive medicine, still lies almost completely unexplored?

Opinion No. 210 of the Professional Ethics Committee of the American Bar Association, filed March 15, 1941, published in the *American Bar Association Journal* for May 1941, page 319, declares that "where the lawyer has no reason to believe that he has been supplanted by another lawyer, it is not only his right, but it might even be his duty to advise his client of any change of fact or law which might defeat the client's testamentary purposes as expressed in the will." This statement refers, of course, to a will which has already been drawn by the lawyer.

The Opinion continues: "Periodic notices might be sent to the client for whom a lawyer has drawn a will, suggesting that it might be wise for the client to determine whether or not there has been any change in his situation requiring a modification of his will."

The Committee's Opinion takes into account the fact that many events transpire between the date of making the will and the death of the testator and that the legal significance of such occurrences is often of serious consequence, of which the testator may not be aware, and so "the importance of calling the attention of the testator thereto is manifest."

The complete Opinion reads as follows:

"OPINION No. 210
Filed March 15, 1941

"**SOLICITATION**—It is not improper for a lawyer to advise a client whose will he has drawn of changes in fact or law which may defeat the testamentary purpose expressed in the will.

"A member of the American Bar Association calls attention to the effect on testamentary dispositions of subsequent changes in general economic conditions, of changes in the attitude or death of named fiduciaries in a will, of the removal of the testator to a different jurisdiction where different laws of descent may prevail, of changes in financial conditions, family relationship and kindred matters, and then inquires whether it is proper for the lawyer who drew the will to call attention of the testator from time to time of the importance of going over his will.

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"The committee's opinion was stated by Mr. Houghton, Messrs. Phillips, Drinker, Brown, Miller, Brand, and Jackson concurring.

"The inquiry presents the question as to whether such action on the part of a lawyer is solicitation of legal employment and so to be condemned.

"Many events transpire between the date of making the will and the death of the testator. The legal significance of such occurrences are often of serious consequence, of which the testator may not be aware, and so the importance of calling the attention of the testator thereto is manifest.

"It is our opinion that where the lawyer has no reason to believe that he has been supplanted by another lawyer, it is not only his right, but it might even be his duty to advise his client of any change of fact or law which might defeat the client's testamentary purpose as expressed in the will.

"Periodic notices might be sent to the client for whom a lawyer has drawn a will, suggesting that it might be wise for the client to reexamine his will to determine whether or not there has been any change in his situation requiring a modification of his will."

Modern conditions are forcing upon the legal profession a specialization which is just as definite and pronounced as specialization in industry and in business. The encroachment of non-lawyers into the legal field is merely a manifestation of current changes in our industrial development to answer pressing needs, to meet which lawyers are only now in the process of developing the proper technique. Our problem is to see that these needs are met by lawyers performing their function in the sacred tradition of the attorney-client relationship. Only in this manner will the public be served. If lawyers do not meet the need, those who are not lawyers will attempt to do so to the great detriment of the public because, as already asserted, the advice from lay individuals and agencies on these subjects is apt to be colored by a personal interest of the person giving the advice.

Perhaps large law firms are overwhelmed with legal business so that the personnel of these firms is not included within the group of attorneys whose incomes have decreased materially during the past ten years in California. On the other hand, it may well be that even large law firms would be able to take care of more legal matters. This is really not the fundamental question; that question is whether or not the public is being served by impartial advice in the field of estate planning.

Assuming, for the moment, that even large law firms are in a position to take care of more legal matters for their clients, are these firms actually getting the wills and the trusts—the estate planning—for their own clients for whom they are doing other types of law work?

Without a survey on this subject, no authoritative statement can be made. However, I have been told that many clients have never discussed the subject of their will or trust, estate taxes or inheritance taxes with their attorneys although other types of law work have been done for these individuals for many years. But these same clients have very probably discussed their tax situation and their estate plans with their banker, life underwriter, non-lawyer tax consultant, or with some estate-planning corporation.

Why does this situation exist? Attorneys with whom I have discussed the subject seem to agree that it is because (1) the kind of law practice which pays

the best fees is the type which involves getting clients out of trouble; (2) when an attorney suggests that his client plan his estate and draw his will or trust, the client may get the idea that the attorney is doing it from selfish motives; and (3) specialized tax knowledge is required in estate planning and the attorney can generally make more money by getting his clients out of current difficulties than by spending a lot of time in anticipating future ones.

To share in the preventive legal work now being done by non-lawyers and corporations, lawyers must be willing to put aside questions of procedural detail important in conducting a trial and pertinent to appearances before administrative or judicial tribunals, and must familiarize themselves with the type of thought common to so-called estate planners outside of the legal profession. If the general practitioner does not have the time to train himself in this type of thinking, there are other lawyers devoting their entire efforts to these matters who may be associated in the individual case.

It is my experience that when lawyers use the proper emphasis in advising clients of changes in general economic conditions, including taxes, they are pleasantly surprised by finding a favorable response. But the lawyer must be armed with specific information applicable to his client's situation. For example, let the lawyer be the first person to tell his client that, so far as the federal estate tax is concerned, a deduction will be denied for property previously taxed where the net estate of the prior decedent did not exceed \$100,000 and was not, therefore, subject to the basic estate tax.*

To advise clients of any change of "fact or law" which might defeat the client's testamentary purpose, is certainly a challenge to the lawyer's ingenuity and ability under present conditions. As suggested by Opinion No. 210 already quoted, it is for the lawyer to give thought to the importance of changes in the attitude of fiduciaries named in a will, changes resulting from the death of fiduciaries named in a will, the importance of changes in financial conditions, family relationships and kindred matters. If lawyers are themselves convinced of the importance of these changes in the affairs of clients, we shall find that our suggestions fall on attentive ears. In particular, all of us here in Southern California should be alert to the importance of the removal of the testator to a different jurisdiction where different laws of descent may prevail and where multiple inheritance taxes are an ever-present danger.

I believe that in these days of specialization, attorneys who are practicing as tax specialists in estate planning should do that work to the exclusion of everything else. The tax specialist is entitled merely to his fee for cooperating with the attorney-of-long-standing in setting up the estate plan and should not expect to participate in the probate of the estate. Let lawyers in general practice bestir themselves to be the executives who, over their own desks, give complete service to their clients even though they are enabled to do so by reason of the help of attorneys who specialize in particular fields; let them make up their

*Since Mr. Olson submitted this article word has been received that a Joint Resolution changing this interpretation has been introduced in Congress. It is H. J. Res. 214 and it is expected that it will pass.—*Ed.*

minds to meet the challenge of changing conditions through a coordination of effort. Let lawyers realize anew that the product for which we are paid is our advice, and let us impress that fact upon the minds of our clients along with the further fact that the relationship between attorney and client is safeguarded as it is because the advice given in that confidential relationship must, of necessity, be unbiased and for the benefit of the client alone.

All that we lawyers are required to do is to impress upon our clients that in all the relationships bearing on this subject, it is only the relationship of attorney and client which is so safeguarded that there can be no ulterior motive in the giving of such advice; that the lawyer is worthy of his reasonable fee for such advice at the very time that the advice is given—not merely if and when the lawyer or his office associates are fortunate enough to survive the client—and if and when they are again fortunate enough to be asked to probate the estate.

In the caption preceding these paragraphs, I have termed them a partial answer to the question of the diminishing minimum of lawyers' incomes. This is because my remarks have been confined to legal matters which should receive the attention of lawyers in but one field—the field of estate planning. Many other fields of the law are perhaps equally fruitful if a somewhat similar method is followed.



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"MEET ME AT THE STATE BAR CONVENTION IN YOSEMITE" SEPTEMBER 16TH TO 20TH

THE State Bar of California, in its convention at Yosemite in September will offer to its members something unusual—for these are unusual times. What does the trend of administrative law—the war economy—and other recent developments mean to you in your daily practice? The program of the convention is designed to aid you in answering these questions.

Walter P. Armstrong, of the American Bar Association, Acting Attorney General Francis Biddle, Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, Willis J. Ballinger, of the Federal Trade Commission, Senator Styles Bridges, and Ganson Purcell, Commissioner of Securities Exchange Commission, will be among the speakers.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

The convention will be opened Tuesday afternoon, September 16, by Governor Olson with a few words of greeting. Following the introduction, Acting Attorney General Francis Biddle will relate the general theme of the convention, "Making American Democracy Work" to the specific problems now confronting the profession.

The Conference of State Bar Delegates will make its report in writing directly to the Board of Governors in order to give more time to vital topics. The proceedings of the Conference of State Bar Delegates will take place beginning September 16, in the afternoon, and Wednesday, September 17. All members of the State Bar of California may take part in these proceedings with the exception of voting.

The Morrison Lecture this year will be delivered by Mr. Walter P. Armstrong, of the American Bar Association.

Following the Conference of Bar Delegates, and on Thursday and Friday, September 18 and 19, there will be two full days of symposiums. Mr. Harry J. McClean, who is in charge of the symposium on Administrative Agencies, will open the September 18th discussion with a review of the findings of his committee on Administrative Agencies as a preface to the symposiums on (1) State Agencies, (2) The Securities and Exchange Act, Wages and Hours Act, Federal Trade Commission, and Price Control.

At four o'clock on Thursday, September 18, there will be a discussion on "Recent Epochal Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States." Stephen W. Downey, of Sacramento, is chairman of this panel. With him in discussing the decisions will be A. M. Cathcart, D. O. McGovney, Stanley Morrison, Francis Kirkham, and Maurice Harrison. Mr. Downey has announced that Mr. McGovney, Mr. Morrison, and Mr. Cathcart, respectively, will lead off with a discussion of recent decisions relating to administrative agencies, taxing power of the states, and civil liberties. These lead-off talks will be followed by a panel

discussion of the decisions, which will then be followed by discussions from the floor of the convention.

One of the topics for Friday, September 19, is "The Practice of Law in a War Economy." There will be a panel on "Federal Emergency Powers and Their Implication to the Lawyer and His Clients." Speakers will be: Senator Styles Bridges, Gerald H. Hagar, Herbert W. Clark and Eugene Prince. Another panel will present the topic, "Present Application of the Sherman Act." Speakers will be: Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, Herbert W. Clark, Senator Styles Bridges, Gerald H. Hagar and Eugene Prince.

On Saturday morning, September 20th, there will be an open forum discussion at which any matter may be discussed by any member of the bar. Recommendations made by this meeting will go directly to the Board of Governors.

All attorneys attending the symposium meetings will be encouraged to participate in the discussions and obtain the benefit of the opinions and specialized knowledge of the experts. There will also be other discussion groups.

In addition to the conference and convention sessions, the five-day program will include meetings of the Junior Bar, the California Judges Association, Conference of Patent Lawyers, and group meetings by law school alumni, fraternity and sorority organizations.

RATES

The center of activity will be at Camp Curry; general meetings are scheduled in the large pavilion there. There are ample facilities for everyone who wishes to come, but nevertheless to be sure of proper accommodations reservations should be made promptly. Convention rates at Yosemite National Park are:

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Three persons in room.....	2.75

OPINIONS OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL ETHICS

ALTHOUGH it may not be generally known, there exists a hardworking committee of the Los Angeles Bar Association known as the Committee on Legal Ethics. The duties of this committee are to consider and act upon inquiries of members of the bar relating to professional ethics.

This year the chairman of the Committee is Clyde E. Holley. The other members are:

Julius V. Patrosso	Raymond V. Haun
Preston B. Plumb	Vere Radir Norton
Robert W. Proudfit	Shirley C. Ward, Jr.
Thomas T. Robinson	Edwin W. Taylor
Wesley L. Nutten, Jr.	Philbrick McCoy
	Jerold E. Weil

The editor of the BULLETIN recently asked the chairman of this committee whether any of its opinions were available for publication. Mr. Holley stated that the committee had considered many inquiries from attorneys on questions which involved legal ethics, but usually the inquiries were answered by a letter citing previous opinions or canons adopted by the American Bar Association. Occasionally, however, the committee feels that a question calls for an opinion. Thus far this year two such opinions have been rendered by the committee. Believing that these opinions will be of interest to lawyers in Los Angeles County, the BULLETIN is happy to print them below; future opinions will be published in the BULLETIN from time to time.

It may be of interest to know that the committee welcomes and answers inquiries of any lawyer of the California Bar, whether or not he is a member of the Los Angeles Bar Association.

OPINION OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL ETHICS LOS ANGELES BAR ASSOCIATION

(May 12, 1941)

REPRESENTING CONFLICTING INTERESTS. AN ATTORNEY FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY AN ATTORNEY FOR A CORPORATION MAY PROPERLY ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CORPORATION IN AN ACTION AGAINST ITS FORMER PRESIDENT AND ANOTHER BASED UPON A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CORPORATION AND THE OTHER PARTY, WHEN THE ATTORNEY OFFERED THE EMPLOYMENT RENDERED NO LEGAL SERVICE TO THE CORPORATION WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONTEMPLATED ACTION, AND ACQUIRED NO CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION WITH RESPECT THERETO.

The Committee is asked whether an attorney may accept professional employment in view of the following facts:

In 1922 "A" corporation made a contract for the sale of its gas to the "X" Gas Company. From 1923 to the fall of 1940, when he resigned, "B" was a director, as well as the president, and general manager of the Corporation,

and was and is still the owner of some of the shares of its capital stock. From 1924 to 1939, one "N" was the attorney for the corporation and during that time did some legal work for "B". In 1928 "B" induced the Corporation to revise its contract with the Gas Company and a new contract was made which is now said to have been disadvantageous to the Corporation. "N" advised the Corporation in this transaction and, after conferences and correspondence with the Corporation and "B", and with the Gas Company, prepared the new contract which was signed. When this was done the Gas Company assigned to "C", a friend of "B", a ten percent interest in its new contract. All checks for this interest were drawn to the order of "C", but these checks were actually endorsed by "B" in "C's" name, not, however, "C" by "B." In the fall of 1940 "B" resigned as a director, president and manager, and the directors, a majority of whom have been on the board since 1928, appointed another in his place. The new manager has discovered the secret transaction between the Gas Company and "C" and the checks so endorsed by "B", and now wishes to sue the Gas Company, "B" and "C" to recover such damages as the Corporation may have sustained by reason of the transaction. In this connection it should be stated that when the new manager was employed in the fall of 1940, it was discovered that many files and original documents belonging to the Corporation were found among "N's" papers and files and have now been delivered to the Corporation to complete its records. However, "N", the former attorney for the Corporation, apparently had no knowledge of the facts upon which the proposed action will be based.

The Corporation has requested "M" to represent it in the proposed litigation, and it is "M" who asks whether he may accept the employment. In the fall of 1936 "M" became associated with "N", and until "N's" retirement from active practice in 1939 was compensated by "N" for work done for "N" on behalf of "N's" clients. When "N" retired, "M" formed a partnership with another attorney and continues to occupy "N's" old office, and "inherited" his files and records. These records indicate that "N" did no work for the Corporation in connection with the contract in question subsequent to 1932, and "M" states that, although at the request of "N" he did legal work for the Corporation after 1938, he had no knowledge of the contract until after the new manager assumed his duties in 1940, since which time he has been employed by the Corporation as its attorney. In 1937 "M" was employed by "N" to assist him in some detail work involving a foreclosure action against "B", and was paid for this work by "N". He has done no other work for "B" individually.

The opinion of the Committee was stated by Mr. McCoy, Messrs. Holley, Weil, Taylor, Haun, Robinson, Plumb, Proudfit, Ward and Nutten, concurring.

The Committee is of the opinion that the attorney may accept the employment offered to him. It is stated in Canon 6 that a lawyer may not represent conflicting interests, and that within the meaning of this canon he does so "when, in behalf of one client, it is his duty to contend for that which duty to another client requires him to oppose. The obligation to represent the client with undivided fidelity and not to divulge his secrets or confidences forbids also the subsequent acceptance of adverse retainers or employment from others in matters adversely affecting any interest of the client with respect to which confidence has been reposed." However, this rule does not mean that an attorney, having been once employed by a client, shall never thereafter appear in any matter against him; it merely forbids his appearing or acting against him where he can use, to the detriment of such client, the information and confidences acquired during the existence of the relationship, particularly with reference to

the subject matter of the subsequent employment. (*Wutchumna Water Co. v. Bailey*, 216 Cal. 564.) On the facts stated, the attorney does not come within the prohibition of this rule.

Our conclusion is not altered by the fact that the former president of the Corporation, who will be one of the defendants in the proposed litigation, is still a stockholder of the corporation, since the attorney never represented him or the corporation in any matter involved in the contemplated litigation. The facts are to be distinguished from those involved in *Boyd v. District Court*, 51 Nev. 264, 274 Pac. 7, wherein the attorney was precluded from appearing as the attorney for the former president and general manager of a corporation in an action against him by the corporation.

The foregoing opinion, like all opinions of this Committee, is advisory only.

**OPINION OF COMMITTEE ON LEGAL ETHICS
LOS ANGELES BAR ASSOCIATION**

(April 29, 1941)

**CONFLICTING INTEREST—EMPLOYMENT—AN ATTORNEY CANNOT
PROPERLY ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE
APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OF HIS CLIENT, EVEN THOUGH
HE MAY FEEL THE PROCEDURE IS ADVISABLE, BECAUSE THE
GUARDIANSHIP APPLICATION IS AN ADVERSARY PROCEEDING.**

A member states that he has represented an elderly widow for many years and that her recent actions convince him that she does not have the mental ability to properly handle her affairs. Members of her family and her physician concur in this view, and a daughter of the client has consulted the attorney with a view to instituting proceedings for the appointment of a guardian. The member desires to know whether he should proceed with the application.

The Committee's opinion was stated by Mr. Wesley L. Nutten, Jr., and concurred in by the following members: Messrs. Clyde E. Holley, Preston B. Plumb, Raymond V. Haun, Robert W. Proudfit, Thomas T. Robinson, Shirley C. Ward, Jr., Jerold E. Weil and Philbrick McCoy.

We are of the opinion that the attorney should not represent the daughter in the application for the appointment of a guardian of the person or estate of his client. The proceeding for the appointment of the guardian of the person or estate of the elderly person is in the nature of an adversary proceeding (*McClenahan v. Howard*, 50 Cal. App. 309), and, if the alleged ward wishes to do so, she could employ counsel and oppose the application. The attorney under these circumstances would be expressly violating Canon 6 of the Canons of Professional Ethics adopted by the American Bar Association.

The foregoing opinion, like all opinions of this Committee, is advisory only.

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AUTHORIZED BORROWERS. The records of the Library show a steady increase in the number of "authorized borrowers", or persons in whose name books may be borrowed. In February, 1939, the paid-up memberships numbered 432. In the same month of 1940, the number was 518. This year in February, 600 persons had made a deposit of three dollars, and now five months later, there are over 700 authorized borrowers.

BUDGET. Estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year (1941-42) indicate that allocations will be in about the following proportions:

Books and other publications.....	51%
Other capital outlay.....	2%
Salaries, including branches.....	41%
Maintenance generally.....	4%
Binding	2%

A considerable increase in the expenditure for books is included in the figures.

PERSONNEL. A staff of sixteen persons now serves the patrons of the Library in the Hall of Records. These are distributed as follows:

Reference Department	7
Orders and Records.....	3
Cataloging	2
Briefs	2
Librarian and secretary.....	2



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NEW BOOKS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW. English Administrative Law, by Carr, is a publication of six lectures made before an American audience by a leading authority on the subject. The lectures review important phases of English administrative legal history, including the "new despotism" flurry.

CIVIL LIBERTIES. Halgren's Landscape of Freedom is an historical survey of the legal oppressions and limitations of the individual in the United States.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW. A study of recent constitutional interpretation is offered by Eriksson, in The Supreme Court and the New Deal.

Constitutional Chaff, by Butzner, presents the rejected suggestions, and points in their favor, made at the Constitutional Convention of 1787. An appendix on the power of the courts to declare legislation unconstitutional is of special interest.

COOPERATIVES. Packel's Law of the Organization and Operation of Cooperatives is designed for lawyers as well as laymen. It covers the drafting of charters, management, and financing.

CRIMINOLOGY. Crime and Its Treatment, by Wood and Waite, discusses both legal and sociological aspects of the subject, for the purpose of securing a more complete understanding of the problem.

DENTISTS. Nimmo's Dental Jurisprudence is a manual on "the major principles of law governing the professional acts and relationships of dentists". The volume is based on California law.

HISTORY. The story of the judicial system of the Confederate States is presented by Robinson's Justice to Gray. Both federal and state courts are included, and so also are the commissions, quasi-judicial agencies, and the Department of Justice.

SECOND EDITION

TRADE LAW DECISIONS

By Superior Judge Emmet H. Wilson

Covering Four Years of Opinions by the
leading California trial jurist in this field.

This second edition was issued because the original edition was sold out. It is improved and supplemented, containing five added opinions rendered since the first volume was issued.

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## THE LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PAPER FOR CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

121 NORTH BROADWAY - Telephone MUTual 6354

HOSPITALS. Legal Guide for American Hospitals, by Hayt and Hayt, was prepared with the cooperation of the American Hospital Association. It covers all phases of service and activities peculiar to hospitals.

INSURANCE. Appleman's Insurance Law and Practice presents an encyclopedic treatise on all phases of the subject, including personal, property, and casualty insurance. The set is to be complete in 18 volumes.

INTERNATIONAL LAW. The Quest for International Order, by Ralston, is a reappraisal of international law and an expression of faith in the "real necessity for determining the relations of nations on a foundation of right".

Gathings' International Law and American Treatment of Alien Enemy Property is a study of the practices of this country, with special emphasis on the sequestrations of World War I.

The Chinese interpretation of international law in relation to jurisdiction of persons and territories, to nationality, and to the pacific settlement of disputes, is presented in Tung's China and Some Phases of International Law.

LABOR LAW. The legal aspects of Rival Unionism in the United States are reviewed in a book by Galenson, while Dangel and Shriber, in The Law of Labor Unions, cover the subjects of organization, powers, liabilities and injunctions.

PRACTICE. Spellman's How To Prove a Prima Facie Defense is intended to furnish questions and answers containing the proof necessary to establish defenses presented in common situations.

Seltzer's Equity Trial Practice and Procedure is planned to facilitate the work of the lawyer at Chancery trials in New Jersey, but should be of suggestive value in equity cases in other states.

REAL PROPERTY. Boundary Problems and Development Projects, by Rickerts, includes explanations of difficulties and of methods of overcoming them, for the benefit of attorneys and title examiners as well as for landowners.

The New York law of Real Estate Mortgages is explained in a volume by Harvey, intended to supply both rudimentary and technical information.

TAXATION. Harriss' Gift Taxation in the United States is an analysis and appraisal of both federal and state gift taxes, with emphasis on their relationship to income and death taxes.

The new English Excess Profits Tax is reviewed by King and Moore in a text based on the analogous act which was in force from 1915 to 1921.

TORTS. A new Hornbook, by Prosser, includes footnotes intended to be helpful to the practicing attorney.

WILLS. Page on Wills, 3d edition, in five volumes, is a comprehensive statement of the law relating to testamentary disposition of property.

The last lecture in the summer series of breakfast lectures sponsored by the Law Lecture Committee of the Junior Barristers will be held September 3, 1941, at 7:45 A.M., at the Rosslyn Hotel. We will be honored to hear Frank Keesling, Esq., speak upon "Practice Before State Administrative Bodies Dealing With Taxation." Older members of the bar are invited. The meeting will adjourn at 9:00 A.M. Cost of breakfast is 50 cents.

CHAPLIN E. COLLINS, Chairman,  
Junior Barristers Law Lecture Committee

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NEW RULES OF PRACTICE

CHIEF JUSTICE PHIL S. GIBSON has announced that the Judicial Council of California is about to begin the most comprehensive program of procedural reform yet attempted in California. This work will be done pursuant to Chapter 562 of the Statutes of 1941, which provides:

"The Judicial Council shall have the power to prescribe by rules for the practice and procedure on appeal, and for the time and manner in which the records on such appeals shall be made up and filed, in all criminal cases in all courts of this State.

"The Judicial Council shall report the rules prescribed by it to the Legislature within 10 days after the Legislature convenes for its Fifty-fifth Regular Session.

"The rules reported as aforesaid shall take effect on the ninetieth day after the day on which the Legislature convenes for its Fifty-fifth Regular Session, and thereafter all laws in conflict therewith shall be of no further force or effect."

B. E. Witkin, the reporter of decisions of the Supreme Court and District Courts of Appeal, will head the administrative staff and will act as draftsman of the new rules. He will be aided by Edward L. Barrett, research assistant of the Judicial Council.

The Chief Justice states that the Council plans to work with committees of The State Bar and local bar associations in order that lawyers generally may participate in the work of revision.

### AMENDMENTS OF RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 8, 1941

In the meantime the Judicial Council has announced non-controversial amendments to the Rules of Appellate Practice for the Supreme Courts and District Courts of Appeal, effective September 8, 1941. In brief they are (from *San Francisco Recorder* of August 11, 1940):

In Section 5 of Rule I, relating to extension of time on briefs, a provision was inserted that an application by affidavit shall show service upon opposing counsel.

In Rule II relating to preparation of record in criminal cases, an amendment was adopted providing for insertion in the clerk's transcript of the notice of appeal and statement of grounds of appeal, in addition to other documents heretofore required.

A new section was added to Rule V relating to dismissal of appeals, providing that failure of appellant to oppose a noticed motion may be deemed an abandonment of the appeal.

Section 1 of Rule VI has a slight amendment to require inclusion in the certificate accompanying a motion to dismiss of the fact and date of entry of order of termination of proceedings for record.

An amendment to Section 1 of Rule IX amplifying the requirements relating to transmission of original exhibits omitted from the record, was adopted.

Rule XXXIII was amended to direct omission from remittitur in probate cases of the judgment for costs, which is provided for on civil appeals.

Rule XXV had added thereto a direction for return of original papers previously transmitted for inspection of the court.

The Supreme Court rule for review of a record in disciplinary proceedings was designated as Section 6 of Rule XXVI.

All members of the Judicial Council attended the August 8 meeting, Chief Gibson said, setting, incidentally, a new record for attendance and emphasizing membership interest in the Council's plans for streamlined procedure.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Members of the Council are:

Phil S. Gibson, Chief Justice, Chairman of the Council, San Francisco; John W. Shenk, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, San Francisco; John T. Nourse, Presiding Justice, District Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two, San Francisco; John F. Pullen, Presiding Justice, District Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, Sacramento; Charles R. Barnard, Presiding Justice, District Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Fresno; T. W. Harris, Judge of the Superior Court of Alameda County, Oakland; Elmer E. Robinson, Judge of the Superior Court, San Francisco; Frank M. Smith, Judge of the Superior Court, Los Angeles; Hilliard Comstock, Judge of the Superior Court, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County; Alden Ames, Judge of the Municipal Court, San Francisco; H. Leonard Kaufman, Justice of the Peace, Compton Township, Los Angeles County; B. Grant Taylor, Clerk, Supreme Court, Secretary.

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## ACTIVITIES OF THE JUNIOR BARRISTERS

By Glenn B. Martineau, of the Los Angeles Bar

A NEW series of Saturday afternoon radio programs has been inaugurated by the Junior Barristers over Station KFI. Like the series sponsored during the early summer months and known under the title of "The Story of American Liberties", these programs will portray important phases of American life. Because of the tremendous public response to "The Story of American Liberties", the directors of Station KFI were of the opinion that the broadcasts were performing a valuable community service and requested that they be continued. The Radio Committee likewise has been asked by the California Department of Education that transcriptions on additional subjects be prepared. Earlier transcriptions of these programs have been used in the schools throughout the State of California. These dramas, when transcribed, are of permanent educational value for students since the transcriptions can be used from year to year. This material is also used by the Public Relations Committee of the State Bar of California as a basis for similar radio programs which are being arranged by local bar associations all over the State, following the lead of the Los Angeles Bar Association.

These new programs are being broadcast each Saturday afternoon at 4:30 over KFI. Again the Works Progress Administration has offered to supply the dramatic artists. Whereas the earlier programs dealt with the historical background of our democratic form of government, the new series will describe phases of our system of life in the United States today. Broadcasts will be made on such subjects as Communication, Finance and Credit, Charity, Transportation, National Defense, Industry, The Consumer, Trade, Foreign Relations and other similar topics. Each broadcast will go into the background of the subject matter, showing its development from colonial times and how lawyers have assisted in making each of these an important part of our modern way of living.

Jerome Ehrlich, Chairman of the Radio Committee of the Junior Barristers, is pleased to announce the appointment of the following committee for the purpose of editing the scripts for these programs: John A. Loomis, Rollin E. Woodbury, Francis J. McEntee, Alfred B. Hunter, Gordon L. Files, Judd Downing, James C. Greene and Maurice O'Conner.

With the approach of fall, Chaplin Collins, Chairman of the Law Lectures Committee, wishes to announce the final speaker in the series of breakfast-time talks which have been given monthly throughout the summer at the Rosslyn Hotel at 7:30 A.M. These talks have dealt with the problem of practice before various types of administrative agencies, the last several having related especially to practice before tax authorities. On August 13, 1941, Gordon Stater, Esq., gave an unusually practical and worth while address on the subject of "Practice Before Taxing Bodies Dealing With Ad Valorem Taxation". Chaplin Collins announces that at the final meeting to be held Wednesday morning, September 3, 1941, Frank Keesling, Esq., will speak to the Junior Barristers and their guests upon the subject, "Practice Before State Administrative Bodies Dealing With Taxation". Those Junior Barristers who have been inviting guests and then failing to put in an appearance themselves are assured by the Committee that the possibility of office business need not deter them since these lectures are always concluded promptly at nine o'clock.

During the past month, the Legal Aid Committee has been responsible for supplying the great proportion of volunteer legal services necessary to enable the

Legal Aid Foundation to carry on its important social work in the Cotton Exchange Building. In the vacation period the services of students from the University of Southern California Law School are not available. Austin Peck has been in charge of this work during the month of August.

The following letter was received by the Los Angeles Bar Association:

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE  
Mezzanine 50, City Hall. Michigan 5211  
July 1, 1941

Mr. J. L. Elkins, Executive Secretary,  
Los Angeles Bar Association,  
458 So. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Elkins:

It is the desire of the members of the Board of Social Service Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles to express their appreciation of the fine cooperation that has been extended by the Junior Barristers in acquainting the public with the function of this Board in regulating charitable solicitations and combatting racketeering.

These young barristers have performed a notable public service in an educational program styled "Mutiny on the Public Bounty," having addressed more than twenty-five groups calling attention to the protection that can be had by any person solicited for a charitable contribution by demanding to see the solicitor's information card issued by this city department.

The Commissioners are highly gratified that your Junior Barristers should so willingly render this signal service to the public and are pleased to tender you this acknowledgment of their fine spirit of cooperation.

Very truly yours,

SOCIAL SERVICE COMMISSION,  
THOMAS A. J. DOCKWEILER, President.

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## Legal Procedure for Commitment of Persons to Institutions of the Department of Institutions and Their Release Therefrom

By Marjorie R. Reuman\*

So many attorneys call upon the Department of Institutions for information about admission and discharge of patients from State hospitals and State homes for the feeble-minded, that it would appear timely and of value for a brief article to appear outlining this subject.

To fully describe all of the different procedures and to digest the law in relation thereto would take many pages. This article, therefore, will merely set out the different procedures briefly and refer to the sections of the law without any elaborate commentary legal or otherwise.

There are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Institutions seven mental hospitals, two feeble-minded homes, an institution for defective and psychopathic delinquents, three correctional schools, a home for the blind and two workshops for the blind.

The procedure for blind persons to follow in gaining admission to the facilities provided for them will not be discussed here as no question of incompetency is involved.

### I. MENTAL HOSPITALS.

The mental hospitals admit the insane, chronic inebriates, and the sexual psychopaths.

#### A. THE INSANE.

The insane can be classified into three groups—criminal insane, so-called "civil" insanity commitment cases, and soldiers and sailors.

##### a. Criminal Insane.

The criminal insane are again sub-divided into four groups.

(1) Those prisoners transferred from State prisons because of insanity developing after the imprisonment starts. These cases are transferred to any State hospital when the warden and such other officers as he may designate certify him to the medical superintendent of the State hospital as insane (Penal Code 1587).

(2) Persons charged with crime, who have been declared not guilty by reason of insanity. These persons must spend a minimum of one year in a State hospital if they are found to be insane at the time of hearing as well as at the time of the commission of the offense (Penal Code 1026).

(3) Persons charged with a crime who are found before trial to be too insane for trial. These persons are sent to any State Hospital where they must remain until they have recovered, at which time they are returned to court for further proceedings (Penal Code 1367).

(4) Persons charged with a crime but criminal proceedings are dropped or dismissed. These persons are then committed in the regular manner of insane persons (Welfare and Institutions Code, Sec. 5160).

\*Administrative Assistant and Secretary of Department of Institutions; graduate of Law School of the University of Southern California; admitted to the California bar in 1938. In her first year of practice the author was associated with the firm of Pacht, Pelton, Warne & Black. She was appointed to her present position in 1939. She is in charge of the Los Angeles office of the Department and acts as guardian for about three hundred patients in State hospitals. The author was also in charge of drawing and presenting legislation for the Department at the last legislative session.—Ed.

*b. So-called "Civil" Commitment.*

The majority of persons are committed under provisions of Sections 5000-5159 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. In brief the proceedings can be outlined as follows:

Filing of the affidavit alleging that patient is in need of care (Welfare and Institutions Code 5047, 5408).

Issuance of Order of Detention (in Los Angeles County these are filed with the Clerk of the Psychopathic Court) providing for apprehension and detention either in some private facilities or in the local psychopathic facilities (Welfare and Institutions Code 5050).

Examination of the patient (Welfare and Institutions Code 5053).

Informing patient of his right to hearing on five days notice (Welfare and Institutions Code 5050.8).

If hearing is desired, a hearing is held, and if the patient is found to be in need of care, he may be sent either to a State hospital or to a private sanatorium (Welfare and Institutions Code 5050.9).

Any person, although he may be afflicted with a mental illness, who is sane enough to know what he is doing, may apply for voluntary admission to a State Hospital (Welfare and Institutions Code 6602).

*c. Soldiers and Sailors.*

The Code provides that soldiers and sailors in the service of the United States may be admitted to State hospitals by arrangement between the United States Government and the Department of Institutions (Welfare and Institutions Code 6601).

**B. INEBRIATES.**

Persons afflicted with chronic inebriacy may be committed to State hospitals for the insane for care and treatment of their inebriacy. The commitment procedure is very similar to that for the so-called "civil" commitments and is outlined in sections 5400-5408 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

**C. SEXUAL PSYCHOPATHS.**

Sexual psychopaths may be committed to State hospitals under the following conditions: If a person is charged with a crime, and if in the course of the proceedings it appears that he may be a sexual psychopath, the Court may suspend the criminal proceedings and order a hearing on the issue of the sexual psychopathy. If upon the hearing he proves to be afflicted with a sexual psychopathy he may be sent to a State hospital for care and treatment. This procedure is outlined in Sections 5500 through 5516 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

**II. FEEBLEMINDED HOMES.**

Feebleminded persons and epileptics are committed to State homes for the feebleminded.

Commitment of feebleminded persons and epileptics follows roughly the same procedure as commitment of so-called "civil" insane. The procedure is set forth in Sections 5250-5264 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. There is a practical problem here that warrants mention. There is a waiting list of some five thousand persons for admission to these homes because of the fact that the law only requires the State to care for those for whom there are facilities. The State must accept and provide for those committed as insane. The problem of the feebleminded rests, therefore, with the Counties, and the probate departments of the various counties arrange for placement in private homes pending the time when a vacancy is available.

Proceedings are started with the Probate Department in cases of minors and with the Clerk of the Psychopathic Court in cases of adults.

### III. DEFECTIVE OR PSYCHOPATHIC DELINQUENTS.

Commitment of defective or psychopathic delinquents is a relatively new procedure. These persons are committed while they are minors under the provisions of Sections 7050-7070 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

### IV. CORRECTIONAL SCHOOLS.

Delinquent children for the most part are committed to correctional institutions after having been made wards of the Juvenile Court under provision of the Juvenile Court Law (Welfare and Institutions Code 550-1202).

However, any Superior Court has jurisdiction to send a minor to a correctional institution in cases where the minor is eighteen or over.

And now a word especially for the members of the bar. All of the proceedings listed above with the exception of jury trials and those criminal actions where a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity is at issue are most informal, shockingly informal to the average attorney. The informality for the most part is caused by a desire of the Courts to be as humane as possible in dealing with sick persons. The shock at the informality on the part of the attorneys is due for the most part to a lack of differentiation in philosophy in the purpose of the proceedings in these cases and ordinary criminal actions. With the exception of those few cases where there might be vindictive neighbors or relatives, everyone concerned in these cases is only interested to see if the patient is ill, and if he is, to provide for him the best and quickest treatment with a view to rehabilitating him. An attorney can best serve his client in these cases by approaching the agencies involved with the attitude that he is interested in working out the best possible solution of the problem for the patient rather than by appearing to be only interested in clearing the client of all charges against him. In a case on the borderline between a nervous breakdown and a mental breakdown, delay in securing proper treatment may result in the patient eventually becoming incurably insane.

And now that we have outlined the methods of admission, we will proceed to outline methods of release.

Habeas Corpus is available to any confined person in a State institution to test (1) the legality of the original commitment and detention order and (2) the present mental status of the person as throwing light on the legality of his present detention (Welfare and Institutions Code 6620). Except for specific cases where a certain disposition is required by law, the successful petition for a writ of habeas corpus frees the person entirely from the jurisdiction of the original commitment order.

Those persons committed under Section 1026 of the Penal Code must be held for a year. At the end of that time they may petition, or the Superintendent may petition, either the Superior Court of the County of confinement or the Superior Court of the County of commitment for release on grounds of recovery. If this petition is unsuccessful, another year must elapse before a new petition is brought (Penal Code 1026a).

Those persons committed under Penal Code 1367 must remain in the hospital until sane and when sanity is regained must be returned to the committing court for resumption of the criminal proceedings (Penal Code 1372).

Inebriates, all other insane persons, feeble-minded persons, and correctional school cases may be tried on parole (or probation) when their condition warrants.

The terms and conditions of parole are set by the Superintendent (Welfare and Institutions Code 6726).

Either following parole or without parole, the Superintendent may discharge as recovered, improved, or unimproved (Welfare and Institutions Code 6728, 6730).

A certified copy of the discharge as recovered where there is no guardian acts as a full restoration when filed with the clerk of the committing court (Welfare and Institutions Code 6728, 6729).

Where the Superintendent refuses to discharge as recovered, the remedy is to petition the Court of residence for a restoration if he has no guardian (Welfare and Institutions Code 6734, 6735).

If a discharge as improved or unimproved is refused by the Superintendent, the guardian, friends, or relatives of the patient may petition any Superior judge of the County of the hospital who may discharge upon reasonable conditions (Welfare and Institutions Code 6732).

If the patient has a guardian, then the remedy is a petition for restoration to capacity in the probate action (Probate Code 1470).

If the Secretary to the Department of Institutions is guardian, the certificate of discharge, if issued, shall restore to capacity upon filing in County of residence (Welfare and Institutions Code 6729).

Inebriates are discharged under the same terms and conditions as the insane except that the original commitment cannot be for a period of over two years (Welfare and Institutions Code 5406).

The feeble-minded may be paroled and discharged like the insane (Welfare and Institutions Code 7002).

Correctional school cases may be paroled or discharged from the correctional school (Welfare and Institutions Code 745, 1175-1179).

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

### JOINTLY ADOPTED BY A COMMITTEE OF PUBLISHERS AND ASSOCIATIONS ON BAR COOPERATION AND THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF THE LAW

#### PREAMBLE

The practice of law has, by the Courts and respective Legislatures, been delegated and restricted to members of the bar. No corporations, trade associations or publishers may lawfully perform services which constitute the practice of law or hold themselves out as authorized to engage in such practice. In order to clarify the sphere of activity in which such organizations may engage, to maintain the most cordial and friendly relations with the bar and such organizations, and to avoid any misrepresentation to the public of the qualification and usefulness of such organizations, the following Declaration of Principles has been adopted to facilitate compliance with both the letter and spirit of the prohibition against the practice of law by corporations, associations and other unauthorized persons.

#### SECTION ONE

The issuance of books, loose-leaf services and other publications containing information relating to law and legal subjects is recognized as a legitimate undertaking and as a contribution to the interests of both the members of the bar and the general public.

**SECTION TWO**

Books, loose-leaf services and other publications devoted to law and other legal subjects, or membership in any association, should not be sold with the understanding that the subscriber or member becomes entitled to call upon the publisher or association to give legal advice or to render other legal services. Moreover, no salesman or other representative shall state or intimate that the publisher or association will in any way give legal advice or render other legal services. It is the duty of such organizations studiously to avoid granting requests for advice or the performance of other services which would constitute the practice of law and not hesitate to suggest, in reply to such requests, that the inquirer's own counsel be consulted in such matters.

**SECTION THREE**

No publisher, corporation or association, directly or by implication, shall assert any ability or readiness to grant requests for legal advice or for the performance of other services that would constitute the practice of law, nor represent to the public that, by subscription or membership, the employment of personal counsel is unnecessary.

**SECTION FOUR**

Loose-leaf or other printed services or publications designed to be kept up-to-date pertaining to law and legal subjects shall, on and after August 1, 1941, carry the following printed notice in each volume on the title page or back thereof:

"This publication is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting or other professional service. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought.—From a Declaration of Principles jointly adopted by a Committee of the American Bar Association and a Committee of Publishers and Associations."

**SECTION FIVE**

This Declaration has been formulated and adopted after conference with the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Unauthorized Practice of the Law and a Committee of Publishers and Associations on Bar Cooperation.

Dated: Savannah, Georgia, May 24, 1941.

---

**LAMENT**

At five, the boss steps briskly out the door  
Leaving me here to work two hours more;  
Why does he get his brightest thoughts at four?  
And on a day when I feel tired, lame and sore!  
Two years ago I was a happy sprite.  
This job has made me look an awful sight.  
With joyous smile I came this place to seek,  
The pay seemed fine for forty hours a week—  
The forty's turned to fifty, and some more,  
My handsome boss has now become a dreadful bore,  
No doubt he's skipping lightly o'er the lea  
And left this joint to janitors and me!

—Submitted by a legal secretary.

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